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C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 001030

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DEPARTMENT FOR WHA/CCA, DRL/MLA, IO/SHA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/16/2015

TAGS: [PHUM](#) [PREL](#) [CU](#) [SP](#)

SUBJECT: SPAIN ON CUBA CHR RESOLUTION

REF: SECSTATE 44494

Classified By: Charge d'Affaires Bob Manzanares; reason 1.4 (B)

11. (C) Charge met with MFA Director General for Foreign Policy (P equivalent) Rafael Dezcallar to discuss reftel points and urge Spain to co-sponsor the Cuba human rights resolution at the 61st UN Commission on Human Rights. Dezcallar noted that Spain is not a voting member on the CHR this year, but said Spain is "analyzing" the USG draft Cuba resolution. He said he expects the GOS to support the Cuba resolution in line with Spain's previous votes in favor of such resolutions, however he thought it unlikely that Spain would co-sponsor the USG-tabled resolution. Charge asked whether Spain would help lobby in favor of the resolution in Latin America and in the EU. Dezcallar was non-committal, stating simply that Spain would continue to press Cuba on human rights issues and will consult with its EU partners before deciding its approach on the CHR resolution. Dezcallar said the final decision will fall to Foreign Minister Moratinos, who is out of Madrid until March 17.

12. (C) Dezcallar noted Cuban Foreign Minister Felipe Perez Roque's public call for the EU to distance itself from the USG-tabled resolution during his March 14-15 visit to Madrid. Perez Roque told the GOS that Cuba would consider initiating a formal dialogue with the EU on human rights, allow the visit to Cuba of EU commissioners, and consider signing the Convention on Social and Economic Rights and the Convention on Political Rights "if the EU declined to join the condemnation of Cuba in Geneva." According to Dezcallar, the MFA requested more information from Perez Roque regarding the specific steps Cuba would be willing to take to this end, information Spain does not expect Cuba to provide any time soon. Dezcallar said Spain had impressed on Perez Roque the need for the Cuban government to release political prisoners and open up political space for dissidents. He pointed to the upcoming meeting between EU heads of mission in Havana and Cuban opposition leaders (week of March 21) as evidence that the EU is following through on its promise to increase contacts with dissidents to counter-balance its increased engagement with the GOC.

//COMMENT//

13. (C) The Socialist-aligned "El Pais" newspaper slammed Perez Roque for suggesting the quid pro quo described by Dezcallar, so it is puzzling that the GOS would even hint at a willingness to entertain discussions with the Cuban government regarding its support of a CHR resolution. In this context, it seems unlikely that Spain will assist us in rallying support for the Cuba resolution, but with indications that the UK and other EU countries will support the USG Cuba resolution, it is equally unlikely that Spain will lobby against it.
MANZANARES